How does the Keogh report impact on perioperative care?

“How of the 14 trusts investigated by Sir Bruce Keogh’s team, all but Colchester, Dudley and Blackpool are now under special measures. However, the report outlined specific failings at all 14 trusts.”

Charlie Cooper 16th July 2013

The remaining 11 trusts include:
- Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust
- George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
- Medway NHS Foundation Trust
- North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Some of the key specific failings covered areas such as ‘never events’, infection control, staffing levels, treatment of dementia/mental health patients, staff working long stretches without days off, inconsistent safety checks and maintenance of equipment, lack of compassion, lack of patient dignity and long waiting times for patients.

I am sure like me many of you live and possibly work near or for one of the trusts named above and feel mortified at the findings from the report and wish to help in addressing and rectifying these failings. This cannot be done alone, but through working together as a team you can make significant changes to patient care. As discussed by some of our speakers at the recent summer residential weekend (Jules Wyman, Tracy Coates and Angela Cobbold) good leadership and teamwork is key in ensuring patient safety and improved patient care. It is also important to challenge and speak out when we see poor or dangerous practice. We all know how hard it can be to find the strength and confidence to speak out but we must always keep the patient at the center of our focus.

There is constantly a challenge for us all to economize and save money here and there but sometimes these savings can cost us more in the long run when there is a never event or an infection at the end of it. This can cost the trust thousands of pounds in compensation and longer lengths of hospital stay as well as the reputational cost, which many of the above trusts are now suffering from. But more important is the cost to the patient and their relatives in the physical and emotional trauma they have to go through.

So are you going to work together as a team to make a difference or give up without a fight because it seems like too much hard work? Think to yourself “how would I feel if that was me at the receiving end of that neglect?”

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Reference
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